

U.S. Congressman Mike Pence, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, released the following statement today calling for immediate action in the House of Representatives on the Keep Terrorists Out of America Act following the outcome of the first civilian trial for a Guantanamo Bay terror detainee:

“The case of Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani has given Americans a stark look at what’s wrong with the administration’s disastrous policy of moving terrorists to American soil for trial in civilian courts. Ghailani faced 285 charges, including murder, for his part in two deadly truck bombings outside U.S. embassies in Africa. A civilian jury acquitted Ghailani of all but a lesser charge of conspiracy after the judge refused to allow the testimony of a key prosecution witness.

“Closing the detention facility at Guantanamo and moving dangerous terrorists to U.S. soil does not make our country safer. During the lame duck session, Speaker Pelosi must allow a vote on the Keep Terrorists Out of America Act, legislation that would allow states to refuse terrorists who are being transferred by the Obama Administration. Terror detainees should be held at Guantanamo Bay for military tribunals, but if the administration will not rescind its dangerous policy of moving them to U.S. soil, then Congress must act to protect the American people.”